

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A shopping system for consumable items comprising:

(a) at least one display module including a plurality of display items, wherein each of said display items is not itself available for purchase but visually represents a corresponding one of the consumable items available for purchase, wherein purchase codes associate said display items to the respective consumable items, wherein said purchase codes are collected by a customer;

(b) a customer-operated shopping list assembly system operative to assemble a shopping list corresponding to purchase items said customer wishes to purchase and a quantity for each of said purchase items;

(c) a service point that receives said shopping list with delivery instructions from said customer; and

(d) a warehouse and packing facility that stores the consumable items and on receipt of said shopping list from said service point, packs and arranges delivery of the consumable items according to said shopping list and said instructions.

2. The shopping system, according to claim 1, wherein said display module has a horizontal depth of less than 50cm.

3. The shopping system, according to claim 1, wherein said display item is a sample item substantially identical to said corresponding one of the consumable items available for purchase.

4. The shopping system, according to claim 1, wherein said display item is a replica visually representing said corresponding one of the consumable items available for purchase.

5. The shopping system, according to claim 1, wherein said display item is an original package with at least a portion of the contents removed.

6. The shopping system, according to claim 1, further comprising:

(e) at least one booth for providing a service of a type selected from the group consisting of product promotion and recreation for said customer; and

(f) at least one resource area for providing services to said customer

7. A shopping system for consumable items comprising:

(a) a plurality of display items, wherein each of said display items is not itself available for purchase but visually represents a corresponding one of the consumable items available for purchase, wherein purchase codes associate said display items to the respective consumable items available for purchase;

(b) an information storage device used by customers for retrieving said purchase codes to create respective shopping lists and for giving said shopping lists with delivery instructions to a service point; and

(c) a warehouse and packing facility that stores the consumable items and on receipt of said shopping lists and said instructions from said service point, packs and arranges delivery of the consumable items, according to said customers' respective shopping lists and said instructions.

8. The shopping system, according to claim 7, wherein said information storage device further includes a wireless mechanism for said retrieving.

9. The shopping system, according to claim 7, wherein said information storage device includes a bar code scanner for said retrieving.

10. A display module, in a shopping system, for displaying items to customers comprising:

(a) a plurality of display items for viewing by the customers, wherein each of said display items is not itself available for purchase but visually represents one consumable item available for purchase; and

(b) a security mechanism that connects said display items to the display module permitting the customers to handle said display items but preventing the customers from removing said items from the display module.

11. The display module, according to claim 10, further comprising:

(c) at least one display screen for conveying information to the customers.

12. The display module, according to claim 10, wherein said security mechanism includes a wire for said preventing.

13. A method for selling consumable items, comprising the steps of:

(a) showing display items to a customer, wherein each of said display items is not itself available for purchase but visually represents a corresponding one of the consumable items available for purchase said display items having purchase codes associated respectively with the consumable items;

(b) receiving a shopping list and delivery instructions from said customer, said shopping list being created by collecting a plurality of said purchase codes from a plurality of the consumable items;

(c) transferring said shopping list and said instructions to a warehouse and packing facility including the consumable items; and

(d) packing purchased items according to said shopping list for delivery according to said instructions.

14. The method, according to claim 13, wherein said collecting is performed using a bar code scanner.

15. The method, according to claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

(e) receiving a new variety of the consumable items into said warehouse and packing facility; and

(f) updating said display items to represent said new variety.